

The Great Vigil of Easter

April 4th, 2026 AD

Holy Saturday

A Celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord and Remembrance of our Holy Baptism

Prayerful reflective silence is most appropriate prior to the service

Prayers for worship may be found inside the front cover of the hymnal

**Stand*

The service will begin outdoors around the fire weather permitting.

Service of Light

P In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. **C Amen.**

P Beloved in the Lord, on this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus passed over from death to life, we are gathered here in vigil and prayer. This is the Passover of the Lord in which, by hearing His Word and celebrating his sacraments, we share in His victory over death.

P Let us pray...one God, now and forever. **C Amen.**

The pastor traces the cross and the Greek letters Alpha and Omega upon it, saying:

P Christ Jesus, the same yesterday, today, & forever, the beginning & ending, the Alpha & Omega.

He traces the year upon the candle, saying:

P His are time and eternity; His are the glory and dominion, now and forever.

He puts the five wax nails into the candle, saying:

P By His wounds we have healing both now and forever. Amen

Then, lighting the candle from the kindled fire, he says:

P May the light of Christ, who is risen in glory from the dead, scatter all the darkness of our hearts & minds.

P Let us pray...even Jesus Christ, our Lord. **C Amen.**

*The congregation enters the sanctuary; candles are lit from the Paschal Candle as they pass by.
Please remain standing and face the cross as it passes.*

***Lux Christi ~ Three times during the procession the bearer of the paschal candle stops and chants:**



p The light of Christ.



c Thanks be to God.

Exsultet (EASTER PROCLAMATION)

***Preface**

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C It is good and right so to do.

P It is truly good, right, & salutary... one God, now & forever.

C Amen.

Service of Readings (Prophecies)

P In this most holy night our Savior, Christ the Lord, broke the power of death & by His resurrection brought life and salvation to all creation. Let us praise the Lord, for He truly keeps His Word. The sun of righteousness has dawned upon us who have sat in darkness and in the shadow of death.

The Flood

A A reading from Genesis, chapters seven, eight and nine.

Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P Let us pray...even Jesus Christ, our Lord. **C Amen.**

Israel's Deliverance at the Red Sea

A A reading from Exodus, chapters fourteen and fifteen.

Exodus 14:10-15:1

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P Let us pray...through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **C Amen.**

A New Heart and a New Spirit

A A reading from Ezekiel, chapter 36.

Ezekiel 36:24-28

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P Let us pray...through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **C Amen.**

The Gathering of God's People

A A reading from Zephaniah, chapter three.

Zephaniah 3:12-20

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P Let us pray...through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **C Amen.**

Benedicite, Omnia Opera (ALL YOU WORKS OF THE LORD —ADULT CHOIR)

Remembrance of Holy Baptism

Baptismal Address (*Romans 6:3-11*)

The Paschal Candle is lowered into the water and the sign of the cross is made to show that, in Holy Baptism, a person is born of God.

***Flood Prayer**

P Let us pray...through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **C Amen.**

***Renunciation of the Devil and Confession of Faith**

P Do you renounce the devil? **C** Yes, I renounce him.

P Do you renounce all his works? **C** Yes, I renounce them.

P Do you renounce all his ways? **C** Yes, I renounce them.

P Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth?

C Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son?

C Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day, He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

P Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

C Yes, I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ☩ everlasting., Amen

P Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life **✠** everlasting.

C Amen.

Litany of the Resurrection

P O Lord, **C** have mercy.
P O Christ, **C** have mercy.
P O Lord, **C** have mercy.
P Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, **C** hear us.
P Paschal Lamb, who was offered for us and has taken away the sin of the world,
C have mercy on us.
P Who was crucified for our transgressions and raised for our justification,
C have mercy on us.
P Who foretold Your passion saying, "The Son of Man must be crucified & on the third day rise again,"
C have mercy on us.
P Who destroyed death by dying, and by rising to life again brought life & immortality to light,
C have mercy on us.
P Whose resurrection was first announced by an angel to the women,
C have mercy on us.
P Who appeared to Mary Magdalene and was worshiped by her,
C have mercy on us.
P Who revealed Yourself to the two disciples on the Emmaus road and made Yourself known to them in the Scriptures and in the breaking of the bread,
C have mercy on us.
P Who appeared to the disciples, bestowing on them Your peace and Your Spirit,
C have mercy on us.
P Who showed Your wounded hands and side to the apostle Thomas that he too might believe,
C have mercy on us.
P Who appeared to seven disciples on the Sea of Tiberias, bringing a miraculous catch of fish,
C have mercy on us.
P Who appeared to Peter and to the Twelve, to over 500 disciples, to James and to all the apostles, and to Paul on the Damascus road,
C have mercy on us.
P Who commissioned Your Church to make disciples of all nations by baptizing & teaching them,
C have mercy on us.
P By Your glorious resurrection from the dead,
C good Lord, deliver us.
P By Your victory over sin and death,
C good Lord, deliver us.
P By the majesty of Your risen body,
C good Lord, deliver us.
P We poor sinners implore You
C to hear us, Lord Jesus.
P That we may daily die and rise with You in our Baptism & walk in the freedom of Your forgiveness
C grant us, good Lord.

P That we may set our minds on things above and not on earthly things, serving as we have been served by You,

C grant us, good Lord.

P That we may dwell with You forever in the new creation as citizens of the heavenly Jerusalem, together with all the saints,

C grant us, good Lord.

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, **C** have mercy on us.

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, **C** have mercy on us.

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, **C** grant us Your peace.

P O Lord, **C** have mercy.

P O Christ, **C** have mercy.

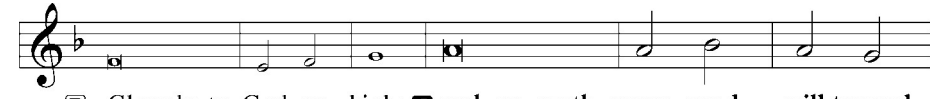
P O Lord, **C** have mercy. Amen.

Service of the Word

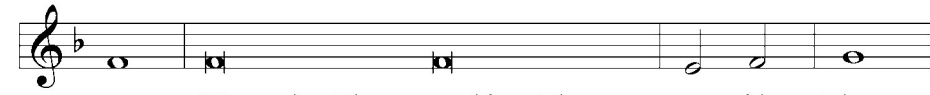
***Easter Acclamation** ~ *The Altar candles are lighted from the Paschal candle, the bells are rung, and the Sanctuary is lighted. then is said:*

P Alleluia! Christ is risen! **C** He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

***Gloria in Excelsis**



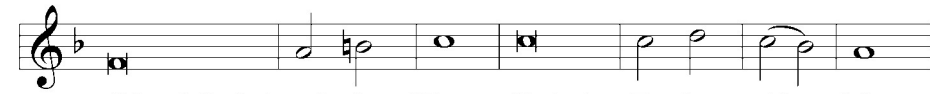
P Glory be to God on high: **C** and on earth peace, good - will toward



men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,



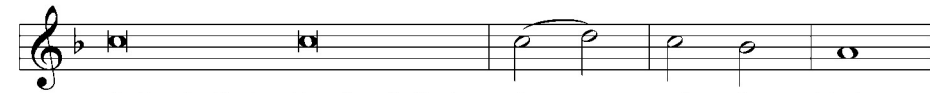
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.



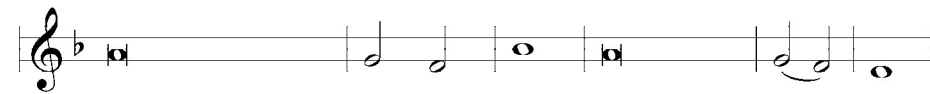
O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.



O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;



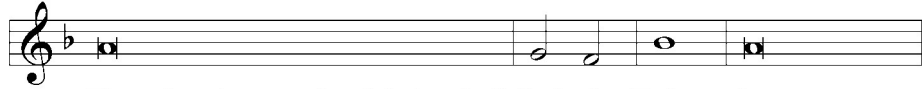
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,



that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up - on us.



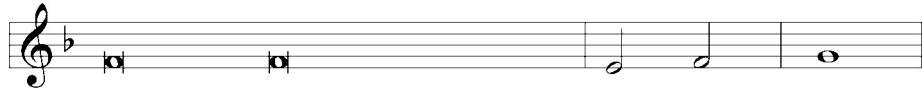
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.



Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-



on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on-ly art the Lord.



Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho-ly Ghost,



art most high in the glory of God the Father. A-men.

***Salutation and Collect of the Day**



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir-it.



P Let us pray.



C A-men.

***The Gospel Processional Hymn #463 vs. 1-2**

P The Holy Gospel According to St. Mark the sixteenth chapter:



C Glo-ry be to Thee, O Lord.

After the reading:

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

***The Gospel Processional Hymn #463 vs. 3-4**

Sermon

Offering

Come, Sing Alleluia

Zion Adult Choir

Service of Holy Communion

The liturgy continues on pg. 194 of the Hymnal.

*Preface pg. 194

*Sanctus pg. 195

*The Lord's Prayer pg. 196

*The Words of Institution pg. 197

*Pax Domini pg. 197

*Agnus Dei pg. 198

The Distribution

(Please see the note about Holy Communion on the last page)

Hymn(s) during Distribution #467 & #483

(The Post-Communion Canticle is omitted)

*Salutation

*Post Communion Collect

P O God, for our redemption... one God, now and forever.



A-men.

Benedicamus pg. 202

Benediction pg. 202

Processional Hymn #465

Soli Deo Gloria

Easter Day Service at 10:00 AM

Easter Breakfast 8:30 - 9:45 AM

463 Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia



1 Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day; Al - le - lu - ia!
 2 For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 Hail, the vic - tim un - de - filed, Al - le - lu - ia!
 4 Chris - tians, on this ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!



Chris-tians, has - ten on your way; Al - le - lu - ia!
 Sin - less in the sin - ner's stead. Al - le - lu - ia!
 God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled, Al - le - lu - ia!
 All your grate - ful hom - age pay; Al - le - lu - ia!



Of - fer praise with love re - plete, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia!
 When con - tend - ing death and life, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia!



At the pas - chal vic - tim's feet. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Now He lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Met in strange and awe - some strife. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Now He lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: attr. Wipo of Burgundy, d. c. 1050; tr. Jane E. Leeson, 1809-81, alt.
 Tune: Robert Williams, c. 1781-1821
 Text and tune: Public domain

467 Awake, My Heart, with Gladness



1 A - wake, my heart, with glad - ness, See what to - day is done;
 2 The foe in tri - umph shout - ed When Christ lay in the tomb;
 3 This is a sight that glad - dens—What peace it doth im - part!
 4 Now hell, its prince, the dev - il, Of all their pow'r are shorn;



Now, af - ter gloom and sad - ness, Comes forth the glo - rious sun.
 But lo, he now is rout - ed, His boast is turned to gloom.
 Now noth - ing ev - er sad - dens The joy with - in my heart.
 Now I am safe from e - vil, And sin I laugh to scorn.



My Sav - ior there was laid Where our bed must be made
 For Christ a - gain is free; In glo - rious vic - to - ry
 No gloom shall ev - er shake, No foe shall ev - er take
 Grim death with all its might Can - not my soul af - fright;



When to the realms of light Our spir - it wings its flight.
 He who is strong to save Has tri - umphed o'er the grave.
 The hope which God's own Son In love for me has won.
 It is a pow'r - less form, How - e'er it rave and storm.

5 The world against me rages,
 Its fury I disdain;
 Though bitter war it wages,
 Its work is all in vain.
 My heart from care is free,
 No trouble troubles me.
 Misfortune now is play,
 And night is bright as day.

6 Now I will cling forever
 To Christ, my Savior true;
 My Lord will leave me never,
 Whate'er He passes through.
 He rends death's iron chain;
 He breaks through sin and pain;
 He shatters hell's grim thrall;
 I follow Him through all.

7 He brings me to the portal
 That leads to bliss untold,
 Whereon this rhyme immortal
 Is found in script of gold:
 "Who there My cross has shared
 Finds here a crown prepared;
 Who there with Me has died
 Shall here be glorified."

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-76; tr. John Kelly, 1833-90, alt.
 Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598-1662
 Text and tune: Public domain

483 With High Delight Let Us Unite



1 With high de-light Let us u - nite In songs of great
 2 True God, He first From death has burst Forth in - to life,
 3 Let prais-es ring; Give thanks, and bring To Christ our Lord



ju - bi - la - tion. Ye pure in heart, All bear your part,
 all sub-du - ing. His en - e - my Doth van-quished lie;
 ad - o - ra - tion. His hon - or speed By word and deed



Sing Je - sus Christ, our sal - va - tion. To set us
 His death has been death's un - do - ing. "And yours shall
 To ev - 'ry land, ev - 'ry na - tion. So shall His



free For - ev - er, He Is ris'n and sends To all earth's
 be Like vic - to - ry O'er death and grave," Saith He, who
 love Give us a - bove, From mis - er - y And death set



ends Good news to save ev - 'ry na - tion.
 gave His life for us, life re - new - ing.
 free, All joy and full con - so - la - tion.

Text: Georg Vetter, 1536-99; tr. Martin H. Franzmann, 1907-76
 Tune: Cinquante Pseaumes, 1543, Geneva
 Text: © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001059
 Tune: Public domain

465 Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds



1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds In
 2 E - ter - nal is the gift He brings, There -
 3 O fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love; Set
 Δ 4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring And



praise of love that still a - bounds: "Christ has tri - umphed!
 fore our heart with rap - ture sings: "Christ has tri - umphed!
 heart and will on things a - bove That we con - quer
 with the heav'n - ly bless - ed sing: "Christ has tri - umphed!



He is liv - ing!" Sing, choirs of an - gels, loud and
 He is liv - ing!" Now still He comes to give us
 through Your tri - umph; Grant grace suf - fi - cient for life's
 Al - le - lu - ia!" Be to the Fa - ther and our



clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry
 life And by His pres - ence stills all
 day That by our lives we tru - ly
 Lord, To Spir - it blest, most ho - ly



here: "Christ has tri - umphed! Christ has tri - umphed!"
 strife. Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!
 say: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
 God, All the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Paul Z. Strodach, 1876-1947, alt.
 Tune: Geistliche Kirchengesäng, 1823, Köln
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